

MEDIA RELEASE

Youth Coalition ACT 2011/12 Budget Analysis

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Community Services Directorate – Out of Home Care

The Youth Coalition of the ACT, the peak body for youth affairs, commends the following ACT Government Budget initiatives:

- \$2.1 million over 4 years towards supporting Youth Transitioning from Out of Home Care;
- \$1.6 million for a care and protection Community Kinship Care program; and,
- \$2.2 million over 4 years towards Out of Home Care costs.

‘This represents a significant financial investment in the Out of Home Care sector, and offers positive steps towards improving outcomes for vulnerable children and young people in the ACT’, Director Ms Emma Robertson said.

‘Young people with an out of home care experience are amongst the most vulnerable young people in our community, with frequently higher representation in the justice system, poorer educational and employment achievements, and often significant housing and accommodation stress’.

‘We are pleased to see that the Youth Coalition’s recommendations regarding the need for increased support to the services provided by kinship carers, and, support to young people transitioning from care increased up to the age of 25 years, as raised in recent submissions to the ACT Government, have been recognised.’

‘These initiatives will bring the ACT closer in line with best practise regarding out of home care’, said Ms Robertson, ‘however, there is still a long way to go, particularly in relation to transitioning planning.’

‘While the Youth Coalition welcomes these initiatives, further information will need to be provided on how they will be implemented, and their relation to other initiatives, such as affordable housing and a commitment to educational attainments.’

‘It is vital that these initiatives are further progressed in consultation with key stakeholders, including young people, their families, and youth support services.’

For further comment please contact Emma Robertson on 0422 665 469

The Youth Coalition is the peak youth affairs body in the Australian Capital Territory and is responsible for representing the interests, rights, and wellbeing of people aged 12 to 25 years, and those who work with them.

www.youthcoalition.net